

Return of all exiles demanded by April

AMMAN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said on Sunday they would demand Israel allow all 1,600 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories since 1967 to return by next April. They said the PLO expects about 200 expellees to return to their homes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by the end of November. "The PLO will submit a list of all the deportees to Israeli negotiators in Taba and will demand that the return of the last of the deportees coincide with the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier from Gaza and Jericho scheduled for April," said Marwan Barghouti, a PLO official who was exiled in 1987. Under the Israeli-PLO accord signed in September, Israeli troops are to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho over a four-month period starting in December. A PLO official said Palestinian negotiators will also demand Israel agree to the phased release of all its 12,000 Palestinian prisoners by April. According to Palestinian figures, Israel has expelled 1,600 Palestinians since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war — 94 of them after a revolt against the occupation erupted in 1987. That does not include 400 expelled last December, who will all be home by the end of the year.

Volume 18 Number 5450

AMMAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1993, JUMADA AL AWAL 17, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

King sends cable to Baidh

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday congratulated Yemeni Vice-President Salem Ali Al Baidh on the escape of his two sons from an attack Saturday by Yemeni gunmen. The Yemeni vice-president's nephew was killed in the attack. In a cable he sent to Mr. Baidh Sunday, King Hussein expressed deep sorrow at the death of Mr. Baidh's nephew and expressed his heartfelt condolences.

King meets outgoing Syrian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received Syrian ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh, who called at the Royal Court to bid farewell to the King on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Jordan.

Yemenis urge trial of killers

SANAA (R) — The funeral of the slain nephew of Yemen's vice-president took place peacefully Sunday, but thousands of marching students in Aden demanded that the killers be brought to justice. Witnesses said thousands of students marched through Aden, the stronghold of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baidh, after the funeral of his nephew Kamel Al Hamed, a university student in his early 20s. They demanded that the killers, who have not been caught yet, be found and put on trial. Official sources said unidentified gunmen opened fire from a speeding car outside Hamed's home early on Friday. Two of Mr. Baidh's sons, Naif and Yanouf, escaped unharmed. Mr. Baidh's party, the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), has denounced the killing as fresh evidence of a plot to divide Yemen following a 1990 merger between the north and south.

Aided followers stage anti-U.N. rally

MOGADISHU (R) — Anti-U.N. protests rang out in Mogadishu Sunday and an aide to warlord Mohammad Farah Aided said a visiting U.S. envoy would be wasting his time if he did not talk peace directly with General Aided's party. About 2,000 followers of Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) staged the protest on the eve of a visit by envoy Robert Oakley, charged with helping refocus U.S. policy on a political settlement in Somalia and ending bloody confrontations. Protesters directed their anger at the United Nations and its Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, accused by Gen. Aided's camp of turning a U.N. peace mission into an intervention force.

Tourabi calls meeting to settle disputes

KHARTOUM (AP) — The man who is the power behind Sudan's Islamic government said Sunday he was calling a conference of Arab and Muslim leaders to settle their various disputes — and show Sudan is not sponsoring "terrorism." Hassan Tourabi, a veteran Sudanese politician, took reporters the meeting in December would aim at ending disputes between warring factions within Muslim nations but would include leaders and thinkers from non-Islamic countries. He noted that he also hoped the meeting would change the minds of some countries that have accused his Khartoum-based popular Arab and Islamic conference of supporting international "terrorism." "We are sure they will see for themselves that there is no terrorism in the whole idea," he said.

U.N. suspends Sarajevo airlift

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations temporarily suspended emergency aid flights to besieged Sarajevo Sunday after unidentified forces sprayed the airport runway with gunfire, wounding a French officer.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسات الصحفية العربية - الرأي



UAE stresses boycott adherence

ABU DHABI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates reminded business firms Sunday of the need for detailed certificates of origin for all imports, a formality designed to prevent Israeli products from filtering into the country. The local branch of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office, which is attached to the Ministry of Commerce and Economy, said in a circular that the certificates should identify the exporting country and company, list the commodities and provide the name and address of the manufacturing country and firm. On the strength of the information, imports would be given the ministry's approval and clearly marked: "This shipment is not banned from entering Arab ports." The UAE circular apparently was aimed at countering any speculation that the Abu Dhabi government would unilaterally drop or ease the boycott. Publicly, the Gulf Cooperation Council alliance of Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain remains committed to the Arab League resolutions that enforced the boycott four decades ago. The ban not only includes Israeli products, but also boycotts Israeli firms and foreign companies that deal with the Jewish state. These include dozens of U.S. and other Western firms.

2 Palestinians killed amid settler rampage

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians died Sunday, one of them stabbed by Israeli settlers and the other shot by Israeli soldiers, as settlers continued a rampage in the occupied territories.

Settlers warned they would adopt the violent methods of a Palestinian group, which earlier claimed responsibility for the murder of a settler.

Settler spokesman Aaron Domb said on Israeli radio that if Jews were prevented from moving around the West Bank normally and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin compared the settlers to the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), "we shall start behaving like Hamas."

Mr. Rabin Saturday night criticised both Hamas and Israeli settlers hostile to peace between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Domb said settlers would block main roads in the West Bank again Monday and would "continue to throw stones at Palestinian cars, and set fire to them."

"The prime minister's state-

ments comparing us to Hamas tear at the heart of the Jewish nation," said Mr. Domb.

Dozens of settlers placed burning tyres across main roads early Sunday, outraged at the killing of 23-year-old Chaim Mizrahi by Palestinian militants, following his abduction Friday.

The barricades were removed a few hours later by the army with no resistance from the Jews, military officials said.

The armed wing of Hamas, Izzeddin Al Qassam, claimed responsibility for the attack Sunday, saying it "killed the Jewish settler and burned his body."

The charred remains of Mizrahi, an egg merchant from the Beth El settlement in the Ramallah region, were found in the burned-out wreck of a Peugeot on Saturday near Al Birch, where he was abducted.

Mr. Rabin said after violent demonstrations by settlers Saturday that "the opponents of peace on the Israeli side threw stones and burned cars to target Arabs."

"Our task is to beat the enemies and opponents of peace, because either of them

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin to seek U.S. assurances

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will ask President Bill Clinton for U.S. security assurances next week in exchange for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, an Israeli daily reported Sunday.

Mr. Rabin moved his scheduled visit to the United States up two weeks to accelerate the peace process with Syria, the report said.

A spokesman for Mr. Rabin would not confirm or deny the report in the mass-circulation *Yedioth Achronot*.

"We do not publicly discuss issues on the agenda between the prime minister and the president," spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said.

Mr. Ben-Ami confirmed that Mr. Rabin was scheduled to meet with Mr. Clinton in Washington on Nov. 12, although this was subject to change.

The report, which did not cite sources, said Mr. Rabin would ask Mr. Clinton to include Israel at the highest level of intelligence sharing, and to permit the sale of modern weapons systems to Israel.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington and the leader of the bilateral talks with Syria, told the daily *Haaretz* newspaper it was Syrian President Hafez Al Assad who was delaying the talks.

"He has not changed his position until now, and that makes progress very difficult,"

Haaretz quoted Mr. Rabinovich as saying. "He wants to come to an arrangement on his terms, regarding substance and regarding how to achieve the arrangement."

President Assad said Saturday that Syrian-Israeli peace talks could eventually make progress but he did not say if Syria would take part in a next round of negotiations in Washington.

"We consider the peace process to be continuing. It has not broken down. When it breaks down it breaks down for good," he told reporters at Latakia airport, where he was saying goodbye to visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

(Continued on page 5)

Karak, a cradle of politicians, turns tribal in run-up to polls

This is the second in a series of articles on candidates, their campaigns, strategies and chances for the Nov. 8 elections in individual constituencies:

From Lamis K. Andoni in Karak

AT DUSK, men start arriving at the big bedouin tents, framed with white bulbs, to express support for and solidarity with prominent conservative politicians from one of Karak's leading tribes.

The tribe elders and community leaders are seated on coloured mattresses and chairs in the centre of the tents, while other supporters line up rows of plastic chairs brought in for the occasion.

There is hardly any discussion of politics — the elders have absolute confidence in the "tribe's son" and their major concern is to help him secure a seat in the domed Parliament House in Amman.

Unlike four years ago, when an influential candidate of the same tribe lost to younger and more opposition minded politicians, the prospects for the conservatives to dominate the scene seem much stronger this time around.

The majority of the 64 candidates contesting Karak's eight seats belongs to a traditionalist background, including high number of former army officers who do not challenge government policies. Many of them, according to observers in Karak, nominated themselves or were "encouraged" by people of influence to run "in order to burn the leftist candidates."

There are at least six leftist candidates — including a representative of the Progressive



groups against each other at the expense of common platforms — at least as the electoral map suggests in Karak.

Thus the campaigns in Karak are highly individualistic while political platforms are definitely the focal point of the candidates. The multi-coloured banners, in contrast to Amman's mostly white banners, that line the narrow streets of the old city reflect a prevailing trend of an almost opposition campaign in its slogans. Furthermore, the parties contesting the elections, with the exception of the Islamic Action Front, are not advertising their candidates as such but as individuals — in a sign of the irrelevance so far of any party appeal vis-a-vis tribal affiliation.

The "apolitical" manifestations of the campaigns, however, reflect a highly political contest in terms of the clash of interests between the traditionalists and the left-of-the-centre, left and pan-Arabists, or in more general terms, between the conservative traditionalists and those who want to expand the system.

Judging by the highly mobilised and funded campaigns of the conservatives, tribalism, favouritism and family allegiances are replacing party affiliations, political platforms and debates.

If this continues to be the case, the upcoming elections could prove to be a reversal of a trend that reached its peak during the Gulf crisis, when younger and more politicised members of the clan seemed to have undercut the influence of the tribal chiefs who wanted to support Saudi Arabia and the war against Iraq.

There are no attempts by the tribal elders to defend or justify their positions in that period. In fact the atmosphere at the big tents adjacent to a modern villa and turquoise-domed small mosque is tranquil, relaxed and almost festive. The air of confidence seems to reflect a determined will by the conservatives and traditionalists to make a strong comeback to the helm of Karak leadership — in their view whether it is a ministerial post or parliamentary seat makes little difference — for leadership is their right place.

The scene contrasts sharply with more "politicised" and tense campaigns of pan-Arab and leftist independents, or party representatives, who feel intimidated and threatened by the wide-scale campaigns of their opponents.

They try to undercut their conservative opponents by "politicising" the election campaign and "alerting" people against what they describe as "sharp setback in political freedoms" and "official interferences" by the local government in favour of conservative candidates.

"We are now living in an atmosphere of political suffocation," Dirgham Halassa,

THE FOLLOWING are the names and affiliations of some of the major candidates running in Karak:

— Adnan Al Majali, Abdullah Al Majali, Ahmad Kassabeh and Hussein Al Tarawneh (candidates of the Islamic Action Front).

— Mahmoud Hweimel, Mutaeyer Al Bustanji (former deputies), and Jamil Al A'shoush (all three independent Islamists).

— Pan-Arab nationalists running as independents — Samir Habashneh, Muwafaq Al Rahayef Al Hamaydeh, Jamal Abu Nawas, Yassin Tarawneh.

Conservatives running independently:

— Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

— Jamal Al Sarairah (former minister).

— Mansour Ben Tarif (former official).

— Yousef Mbaideh (former justice minister).

— Khaled Tarawneh (retired senior army officer).

Strong contenders for the two Christian seats:

— Ishaq Mdanat (former deputy and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party).

— Dr. Nazih Amarin, former deputy (won in 1984 by-elections but lost in 1989).

— Dr. Abdullah Zreikat.

— Hani Hijazin.

— Abdul Wahab Dlaeen, the candidate of the Arab Baath Socialist Party.

— Bajat Al Majali, a liberal independent, who is backed by prominent Majali clan members who did not vote in favour of the clan council's candidate, Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

an eloquent speaker, said in a speech he made to rally support for Mr. Mdanat, prior to the supreme court's decision to revoke the ban on political rallies in an obvious attempt to focus the campaign on highly political issues.

Mr. Halassa's comments reflect the frustrations of a cornered left, which now finds itself the target of organised campaigns by traditionalists who are exploiting the one-person, one-vote system to strip the campaign of any political substance.

Mr. Halassa was interrupted three times, once by a wedding parade and twice by shouting supporters of a former government official, who

won 10,000 votes for one of the two Christian seats in Karak.

During the last campaign party members had to run as individuals since political parties had been banned. Consequently, at least in theory, political parties' candidates stand a better chance in the coming elections after the legalisation of political parties and lifting of martial law.

But on the ground, the situation is very different. Party candidates admit this election will be an uphill struggle.

An observer spending the day in Karak could immediately detect an atmosphere of apathy, or at least absence of enthusiasm, over the elections campaign.

The apparent political apathy contradicts the history of Karak, which has produced leading Jordanian politicians and activists in all political trends. The prevailing lack of interest attitude defies the reputation of Karak as a stronghold for leftist movements and pan-Arab nationalism.

Interviews with candidates, supporters and some residents, however, gradually help in unveiling the puzzle.

For the last four years, since the country's first elections, most of Karak residents did not feel involved in the political struggles that were raging in Parliament.

Many blame the Karak deputies for failing to keep in touch with their constituents and with the people's problems and demands.

"How come we only see them when they need our

(Continued on page 10)



Every street in Amman is bedecked with banners proclaiming the platforms of candidates in the Nov. 8 elections (Photo by Ainsley Floyd).

Hustings get into high gear ahead of Nov. 8 elections

By Saad Hattar
Agence France Presse

AMMAN — The campaign for Jordan's first multi-party election in almost four decades, set for Nov. 8, is in full swing and expected to cost more than \$50 million.

Dozens of huge tents have been erected on empty lots around the country to serve as bases for nearly 550 candidates, scattered over 20 constituencies, vying for the 80-seat Lower House of Parliament.

Under the tents, cups of Arabic coffee are passed from hand to hand, in keeping with tradition, amidst a heated political debate.

"The average expenses for candidates run in the region of \$7,500," said Samih Maayat, spokesman for the 36 candidates of the Islamic Action Front, an off-shoot of the powerful Muslim Brotherhood.

The costs include non-stop coffee hospitality, banners and the non-refundable JD 500 fee to run in the election.

Expenses for some candi-

dates are expected to hit JD 70,000 to cover daily meals of mutton, one-page newspaper advertisements showing the smiling candidate and a budget to enlist campaign workers.

In some cases, Mr. Maayat noted, candidates pay as much as JD 50 for a single vote.

Former Deputy Fakhri Kawa, who is running in Amman, complained that candidates were paying as much as JD 100 for a single vote in some parts of the capital.

The government has stressed it would stay neutral.

"We never intervene in favour of or against any candidate," said one source, while noting that candidates are all barred from on government-owned television and radio stations.

Jamil Nimi, editor of Al Ahli weekly who is running in Irbid, north of Amman, on a leftist party slate, said his expenses fell within the lower end, at below JD 5,000.

But independent candidate Awni Basir has set a much higher ceiling. He is expected to spend almost JD 15,000 in

Jordan's first multi-party elections since 1956.

The economic daily Al Aswaq has estimated the overall expenses at some JD 35 million.

Sweet shops are working in top gear. Sheep prices have doubled since the launch of the election campaign amidst growing demand for mutton, the main ingredient of the popular dish called mansaf.

"We trade a goat for at least JD 100," said a contented butcher on the outskirts of Amman. Voters expect mansaf, banquets and knafah, a traditional Arab sweet.

The campaign has also contributed to a temporary easing of unemployment, officially estimated at 14 per cent. Many candidates have recruited young men to muster popular support.

"Over the past four months, I've received JD 100 a month, and a pledge to enroll my brother in a university," says Majed Abdul Aziz, who serves as a candidate's driver and bodyguard.

Mr. Arafat said opposition

Arafat again urges Israel to release Hamas chief Yassin

WASHINGTON (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat again urged Israel to release the founder of the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas from prison in an interview published Saturday by U.S. News World Report.

In the interview, conducted this week at Mr. Arafat's headquarters in Tunis, the Palestinian leader said it was imperative to release Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, who is ill.

"It is not a bribe, it is a matter of principle," the magazine quoted him as saying.

Mr. Arafat said he had repeatedly discussed the issue with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who has pledged to "go after the Hamas movement."

"I told him we are now in a new atmosphere. I am responsible for all Palestinians," he said.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, opposes the Palestinian self-rule deal Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed in Washington Sept. 13.

The two sides began negotiations this month on implementing the deal, under which Palestinians' self-rule will begin in December in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Israel recently released Salim Hussein Zerai, the longest-held prisoner from Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement, after 23 years in prison for attacks on Israeli soldiers.

But Mr. Rabin cancelled plans to release fundamentalist activists along with 617 other Palestinian prisoners freed Monday after two hitchhiking soldiers were killed in the Gaza Strip last Sunday by Hamas guerrillas disguised as religious Jews.

Mr. Arafat said opposition

was "part of our democracy" and he was unconcerned by it.

"We are one family. We haven't any problem," he said.

The region's economic future was far more troubling, he said, noting that the PLO had commitments for only \$500 million of the \$1.7 billion it needed in the first year of self-rule.

"Israel and all the Arabs are in need of a Marshall plan for the whole area," he said, referring to the U.S. programme to foster economic recovery in Europe after World War II.

"Right now, we have to start from zero," he said.

Mr. Arafat said he hoped to get increased help from the Gulf states but had recently also met with the American Jewish Congress about funding. Ten members of Israel's Likud opposition party were also coming to see him, he said.

"There is no turning back," he said.

The Palestinian leader said he had "everything ready to go" for the December start of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, although things were "going more slowly than scheduled."

Initially, he said the PLO would coordinate supervision of the border to Gaza and the bridges across the River Jordan.

Handing over supervision would take one to four months, but Mr. Arafat said he hoped it would be completed before his arrival in Jericho in January.

Mr. Arafat said he would likely travel to Jericho by land from Gaza or via the bridge from Jordan. He also said the next meeting of the Palestine National Council would take place in Jericho or Gaza, but gave no date for the meeting.

Mr. Arafat said opposition

by Hamas to the peace accord

PLO leader wants to know why Nusseibeh wants leave

The Jerusalem Post

SARI NUSSEIBEH, one of the senior political figures in the territories, was summoned to Tunis on Wednesday, following his decision to leave for a year of academic research in the U.S., his wife confirmed yesterday.

Nusseibeh, 44, who headed the technical and political committees backing the now defunct local delegation to the peace talks, recently decided to accept a one-year fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson Centre of Advanced Studies in Washington. The academic year begins next week.

A source close to PLO leader Yasser Arafat told the Jerusalem Post that "reliable sources in Tunis" told him that "Arafat offered Nusseibeh the opportunity to be in charge of economic affairs in the self-governing authority" if he stayed. The source said that Nusseibeh was maneuvering for a better political situation, because "Arafat said the technical committee would become null and void, leaving Nusseibeh frustrated."

Nusseibeh has always denied having political ambitions. He dismissed a newspaper report

last year which named him as future prime minister in a Palestinian cabinet. Despite his support for Arafat, he is known to think that his own political prestige, unlike that of delegation members, was independent of Arafat's goodwill, as he is considered one of the few members of the Palestinian elite with substantial grassroots support.

East Jerusalem sources close to Nusseibeh said that his decision was influenced by death threats and a belief that Arafat has no intention of holding free elections next year. They speculated that Nusseibeh is acting with political acumen.

"If something goes wrong — and he apparently thinks it will — he doesn't want to be associated with it," one source said. "If everything goes all right, he can always come back."

Lucy Nusseibeh told the Post her husband has wanted to go abroad for the past three years, and is doing so now because the political situation is more positive than it has ever been.

The question of his taking a sabbatical abroad was first raised during his four-month detention by the authorities in 1991. But he did not go then because "he did want to give

Sari Nusseibeh

the impression of having made an agreement" with the Israeli authorities, she said.

She did not rule out the possibility that the PLO may give her husband a political role to play in Washington, but doubted that he would postpone his sabbatical for a political role here.

Hassan Abu Libdah, the deputy head of the technical committees who will take over Nusseibeh's position, said the committees are not defunct. With the prospect of self-rule around the corner, their planning and advisory role has become more urgent than ever, he said.

U.S. may have blown the whistle on anti-Saddam plot by dissidents

LONDON (AP) — The United States refused to support a plot by Iraqi dissidents to kill President Saddam Hussein and may have betrayed the coup plotters, the Sunday Times of London reported.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents held three days of secret talks with the Iraqis in London last November, the newspaper said, quoting Sa'ad Jibril, a London-based Iraqi dissident who arranged the meetings.

The coup plotters were Sunni Muslims, members of the minority sect which has long supported President Saddam, the Sunday Times said.

Most were from the Iraqi leader's hometown of Tikrit or from Mosul, the northern city whose men are most prominent in the Iraqi officer corps.

The Sunday Times said the Iraqi dissidents wanted American planes to bomb two military camps to create chaos.

Senior officers at the camps, the Al Rasheed, 15 kilometres south of Baghdad, and Al Taji, about 50 kilometres to the north, would then seize power, it said.

The plot was already far advanced when the Americans were called in, and the talks went into "extensive details."

Jibril passed the message on to the plotters and assumed they would scrap their plans.

Instead, they decided to go ahead with the assassination attempt in Baghdad on July 17, when President Saddam attended a parade marking the anniversary of his Baath Party's 1968 seizure of power.

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The plot was already far advanced when the Americans were called in, and the talks went into "extensive details."

Jibril was quoted as saying he suspected somebody connected with the Americans bet-

rayed the operation because all of the 10 officers on the list given to the CIA were arrested.

The newspaper said most of the coup plotters "were probably executed."

The schedule and location of the parade were changed in case any conspirators had escaped.

Those involved in the London talks included Jassem Mousa, an influential lawyer from Tikrit, and Sheik Taleb Al Suheil, an Iraqi dissident living in Jordan.

It said unnamed American officials confirmed the talks had taken place but gave no further details.

There have been reports of several abortive coup plots or assassination attempts against President Saddam in recent weeks, although none have been independently confirmed.

Reports in October also said President Saddam's security forces had rounded up hundreds of members of his Tikriti clan and other prominent Sunni Muslims in the biggest purge since he crushed rebellions by Shiite Muslims and Kurdish separatists right after the 1991 Gulf war.

Swedes say they saw Kuwaitis in Iraq jail

KUWAIT (R) — Two Swedes recently freed from jail in Baghdad said Sunday two men who said they were Kuwaitis captured by Iraqis during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis had been among fellow inmates.

Iraq denied it holds any Kuwaitis taken captive during its seven-month occupation of the emirate in 1990-91.

Kuwait claims Iraq holds over 550 Kuwaitis arrested during the occupation.

The newspaper said

they were held for "extensive details."

Swedes say they saw

Kuwaitis

in Iraq jail



NAMING A PRINCE: His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Sunday attend a special ceremony to celebrate the naming of His Royal Highness Prince Omar Ben Faisal, who was born Friday Oct. 22.

Prince Omar was named by his grandfather King Hussein. He is the second child of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal and Princess Alia. Their first child, Princess Aya, is three years old (Petra photo)

Seminar aims to create opportunities in resources development sectors

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar entitled "Jordan Infrastructure Development" (JID) will be held at the Forte Grand Hotel today (Monday) in order to create new opportunities for British companies to contribute to the development of three key sectors in Jordan — water, energy and mineral resources, according to a statement.

The seminar aims to encourage a mutually beneficial partnership between British companies and Jordanian government organisations and private companies, the statement said. The one-day briefing aims to:

- give firms a highly fo-

— cused and intensive briefing on the three sectors,

- enable U.K. companies to meet Jordanian counterparts and senior officials in the formal sessions and over lunch and an evening reception, and
- provide advice on follow-up.

The JID seminar is organised by a group led by the British embassy in Amman and comprising two Jordanian companies (Amin Kawar and Sons Company, and the Arab Potash Company) and four British companies already in Jordan (British Bank of the Middle East, Merz and McLellan, G. Wimpey International

and Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick).

According to the statement, the seminar will be attended by more than 40 British participants representing 27 British companies, in addition to the, Department of Trade and Industry in London and the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce.

The ministries of Planning, Water and Irrigation and Energy and Mineral Resources will give presentations on current and future infrastructure development plans.

Other government organisations and around 30 Jordanian companies will participate in the seminar.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali meets with Jordan's new envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday called on the newly-appointed Jordanian ambassadors to Syria, Qatar, Yemen, Morocco, Belgium, China, Germany, Australia, Greece and Australia to exert every possible effort in developing bilateral relations with Arab and friendly countries. At a meeting with the new envoys held at the Prime Ministry, Dr. Majali said ambassadors have an important role to play in explaining Jordan's positions on political, economic, Arab and international issues. The Prime Minister called for activating the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to implement His Majesty King Hussein's directives contained in his letter of designation to the government. Dr. Majali emphasised the importance of enhancing relations between Jordanian communities abroad and the homeland. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan. Also Sunday Dr. Majali called at the Department of the Chief Islamic Justice, where he attended part of the weekly meeting of the department's senior officials.

Terminal 1 reopens at QAIA

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) Monday resumes its flights from Terminal 1 at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). The terminal had been closed for renovations for more than two months.

Investments register JD 163m in 1992

AMMAN (Petra) — The total investment volume in the country in 1992 amounted to JD 163 million, up from JD 94 million the year before. The number of companies investing in the economic sector also rose from 4,145 companies in 1991 to 4,556 in 1992.

Team to attend vocational training seminar in Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will be one of a group of Arab countries taking part in a vocational training seminar to open in Turin, Italy on Nov. 2. The head of the participating team, Ali Nasrallah, said the six-week seminar will tackle planning, organisation and supervision of vocational training programmes and will present a working paper on Jordan's experience in vocational training.

Jordan to take part in housing meeting in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 11th meeting of the Arab League Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction, due to open in Cairo on Nov. 12, according to an announcement here Tuesday. Topics on the agenda of the three-day parley include preparations for an Arab regional conference to chart strategies on housing in the Arab World and a report on the housing situation in Lebanon in the aftermath of wars and civil strife in the country, according to the announcement. Activities connected with the U.N. Centre for Population Settlements will also be taken up at the meeting. The Jordanian delegation to the Cairo meeting will be led by Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari.

2 groups of tour operators due to arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — A Canadian tour operator group will pay a week-long visit to Jordan beginning Nov. 9, at the invitation of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The group, which will be accompanied by several journalists and representatives of Canadian radio and television companies will discuss with ministry officials and tourism sector representatives scopes of cooperation between both countries. Another tour operators group from Qatar will spend a week in Jordan, starting Nov. 3, also at the invitation of the ministry, which is working with Royal Jordanian to promote tourism to the Kingdom.

Rapporteur discusses Al Amal Centre progress

AMMAN (Petra) — The first stage of Al Amal Cancer Centre, located near the Jordan University Hospital, will become operational in April 1994 and every effort is being exerted to meet this deadline, said the task force rapporteur Abdullah Al Khatib Sunday. By April next year, at least JD16.5 million would have been spent on constructing and furnishing the centre which will have 100 beds and special wings for children, along with various sections for the treatment of cancer, said Dr. Khatib at a press conference called to report on the progress of the centre. He said that the construction work on the main building has been completed, mechanical and electrical works are underway and together with the finishings, all structural works are expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1994. Work on the 23,720 square metre centre started in 1989 with support from the government and donations from the community, said Dr. Khatib.

Jordan to receive DM 11m in German technical aid

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to receive 11 million German marks (DM) in technical aid from Germany for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), in accordance with the terms of three memoranda signed in Amman Sunday.

The first memorandum provides DM 3 million to benefit the Agricultural Extension Service and a project now being implemented in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to improve the quality of products.

The assistance to be provided will be in the form of experts, computers and other equipment, as well as specially equipped vehicles for agricultural projects.

The second memorandum, worth DM 5.5 million, provides technical assistance for WAJ operations and the maintenance of water net-

works to reduce water leakage from pipes. This project is being executed by WAJ in cooperation with GTZ.

GTZ will provide training to Jordanian personnel in operating and maintaining water equipment and networks, as well as expertise in managing water networks, land surveys and the finances of these activities.

Under the third memorandum, DM 2.5 million will be provided in consultancy services to WAJ to help it conduct studies on underground water resources. GTZ will supply the experts, vehicles and computers among other equipment needed for the project, which is being executed in cooperation with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA).

Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners signed the memoranda at the Ministry of Planning.



memoranda whereby Germany will provide Jordan with DM 11 million worth of technical aid (Petra photo)

German expert receives medal for services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has honoured a German afforestation expert for his services to the Ministry of Agriculture and its various departments and for directing a project for the development of the Zarqa River Basin between 1986 and 1989.

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal presented Laslo Pancel Al Kawakab Medal of the Third Order in recognition of his work.

Dr. Pancel has worked closely with a Jordanian team of experts in developing forest lands and establishing a centre for cultivating tree saplings and seeds, in projects financed by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

From his experience in Jordan, Dr. Pancel wrote a book entitled "The Management of Jordanian Forests" Keen on protecting wildlife

reserves, Dr. Pancel also conducted a study on the development of Dana Reserve in the south.

His work with the Ministry of Agriculture included supervising personnel training in forest development and conducting several activities aimed at ensuring the protection of the environment and the preservation of forest trees.

Born in former Yugoslavia in 1952, Dr. Pancel went to Germany, where he obtained German citizenship and his doctorate from the University of Hamburg.

Before coming to Jordan, Dr. Pancel worked for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Community and GTZ.



Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal (left) presents Laslo Pancel with Al Kawakab Medal of the Third Order for his services to the ministry

Shobak seismological station burglarised, south's earthquake warning system hindered

force and direction of earthquakes.

An official at the NRA at the Ministry of Energy said this was not the first time a seismological station was burglarised.

The official, who preferred anonymity, explained that the batteries and solar cells can be used to operate televisions and automobiles.

"This is the third time one of our 40 seismological stations has been burglarised," the official said.

What is unfortunate, he added, is that the Shobak station will not function without the missing equipment, and 10 seismological stations in the

south will be paralysed because the Shobak station acts as a relay post which transmits and receives the waves from the other 10 stations.

"It is a waste of government money, and it will cost the ministry approximately JD 1,500 to replace the stolen equipment," the official said.

"It will take some time before the Shobak station will operate because such equipment is not available in the local market and must be imported from foreign companies," he added.

The official told the Jordan Times that he hoped that these

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sa'di Al Ka'b at Alia Art Gallery (9:30-13:30 and 1500-1800).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jaloos at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Views" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Bani Hamida fall exhibition: "Autumn Leaves" at the Jordan Contractors Association Building (near the American Embassy in Abdoun) 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

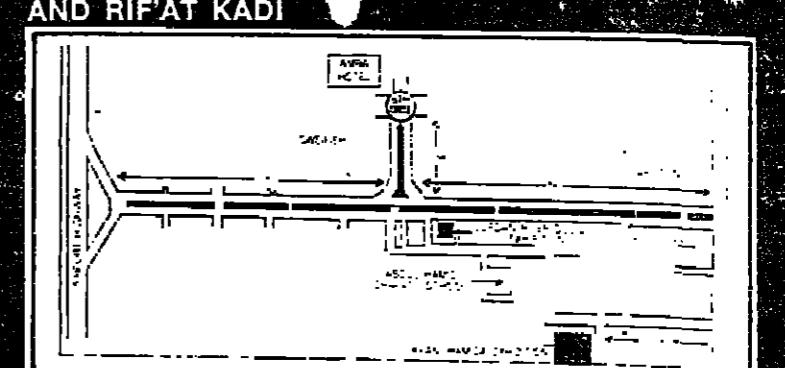
FILMS

- ★ Film in French entitled "Fontaines" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "The King and I" at the American Center at 3:00 p.m. (133 minutes).
- ★ Film entitled "The Seven Samurai" at the American Center at 6:00 p.m. (207 minutes; in Japanese with English subtitles).

CORRECTION

In an Oct. 30 report, headlined "Peace requires specific steps for progress — Anani," the Jordan Times incorrectly attributed the organisation of the open debate, in which Dr. Anani spoke, to the Association of Arab University Graduates in Amman. It was in fact the Jordanian Society for Graduates of U.S. Universities which organised the debate. The Jordan Times apologises for the error.

EXHIBITION SPACE COURTESY OF JORDANIAN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION AND RIF'AT KADI



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Snippets and tidbits from

Friendly and not so amicable candidates; big promises and mots in election campaigns

A PROMINENT Jordanian politician and Irbid candidate, Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, has been active on the campaign trail. He has been visiting everyone he could in his election district. Almost guaranteed a place among the winners in that constituency, he apparently still feels that he somehow has not done enough. In yesterday's local papers Mr. Rawabdeh placed an ad apologising to the people he was unable to visit. "I was keen on visiting

every diwan (tribal head-quarter) and home and I have tried really hard to do that, but time has caught up with me and I have been unable to visit all my relatives and friends. I hope you will accept my apologies." Maybe he will visit them "after" he is elected, some election pundits from Irbid said. Or he will be too busy managing another ministerial post? Mrs. Rawabdeh, on the other hand, was reported making "warm" social

calls in Irbid by offering heaters and blankets as a means to woo voters to cast their ballot in favour of her husband "Abu Issam." Good luck to both of them, in this campaign and elsewhere.

NOTORIOUS FOR his quick wit and jokes, Mr. Rawabdeh almost got himself in a fight on another front. As he was leaving a meeting in Irbid, he met a former minister of health who is also a powerful Irbid candidate. True to form, Mr. Rawab-

deh cracked a one-liner. "Here comes the mid-wife," he said. Naturally the relatives of the former minister, who is a gynecologist by profession, got upset. Had it not been for the intervention of some third party well-wishers there would have definitely been a fight, the story goes.

"WE ARE not for sale" read a leaflet signed by the residents of the Azmi Al Mufti refugee camp on the outskirts of Irbid, attacking some candidates for

their attempts to buy votes.

ANOTHER CANDIDATE running for elections in Irbid promises his voters a step-by-step return to Islamic life. On the foreign policy level, Sheikh Nasser Tahat said in a newspaper ad yesterday that he will accept "comprehensive and just peace which will bring back our land, and our Holy Places, with Jerusalem as its capital." Does it sound like he is endorsing the Gaza-

Jericho agreement? Apparently he is not, as he further adds: "We will accept an independent Palestinian state armed with state-of-the-art weaponry, starting with rifles and ending with cross-Atlantic missiles. Besides, I want to dismantle all the settlements and bring back all the refugees to the lands they left before 1948 and share authority with the Jews on equal footing." Peace mongering or merely language obfuscation? Irbid

voters do not simply know.

A REPORT on the election situation in Karak which was published in one of the local Arabic dailies can only be called a joke. The writer says that votes in the district of Karak cannot be bought because there is "a state of awareness" which the citizens of this district en-

joy." The writer then continues: "To prove this, and to show their commitment to their chosen candidates, most of the Karakis will vote publicly (calling the name out loud)." This is exactly the condition which candidates who "buy" votes place on the voters to ensure that their money is well earned.

Sahar Obeidat

Settlers

(Continued from page 1)

a statement said.

About 24 settlers read the Torah in tents set up on the farm where Mizrahi was found dead and vowed to establish a new settlement there.

"The army has tied our hands until now saying they will protect us. But they can't. We have weapons. We won't accept this accord quietly," said Zeen Libeskend, a settler leader.

The initial settler protest to the peace treaty fizzled out after they failed to attract much interest among most Israelis, who generally support the peace plan, but the killing galvanized them again.

Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi

Peres

(Continued from page 1)

buy shares.

Shlomo Ben-Ami, who heads the new project by Koif, said Western states could not be counted on to meet the region's economic needs while so many other countries sought their aid.

"The Middle East will not be saved by foreign governments," Mr. Ben-Ami told the conference. "Local business, seeking profit, has to be the basis, in a setting of regional cooperation."

Some 3,000 businessmen — Palestinians, Israelis and others — attended the conference, where they discussed ways to reap a peace dividend from the new situation in the region.

Hostages rescued

(Continued from page 1)

left home for work on Oct. 24.

In Paris the French Foreign ministry thanked the Algerian authorities for rescuing Mr. Thevenot and Mr. Freyssier, adding they were "safe and sound."

"The search for Mrs. Thevenot is still under way. In current circumstances, no further comments will be made," it added.

According to rumours here, Michèle Thevenot was separated from the men shortly after their abduction.

While no organisation ever claimed to have kidnapped the three, it was widely suspected to have been the work of Islamic fundamentalists.

Well-informed sources reported that at least seven of the kidnappers were killed in a combined army and police operation.

There were no reports of casualties among the security forces. Other details were not disclosed.

The announcement of the rescue came less than two hours after a statement was released by a group claiming the kidnapping, promising to free the captives Monday.

It was unknown whether the captives were in fact freed from the so-called Islamic Armed Group. The tract promising the release was left overnight in the mailbox of the Associated Press bureau.

It did not report the captives' health or indicate that they might be held separately. Despite the promise to free them, the tract noted that the "rescue" began with the slaying of two French colonists.

The liberation of Ms. Thevenot and Mr. Freyssier capped a week of intensive negotiations since the two were abducted Oct. 24 from their home in central Algiers. An Algerian police guard died in a shootout. A fourth Frenchman escaped.

Haram joined in the criticism of the settlers on Sunday, saying there were "dangerous signs of a revolt."

"They want to torpedo the peace process," he added.

The local authorities in Al Bireh, near the Beth El settlement, said six cars were burnt

and 12 other damaged Sunday, and stones were thrown at 20 Palestinian houses in Al Bireh, Ramallah and Bir Zeit.

Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said the settlers were "provoking the government with all the means at their disposal," and the gov-

ernment "will not let them get away with it."

The army sent reinforcements Sunday to the West Bank, where more than 115,000 settlers live.

Israeli Television said the army detained several Palestinians after the abduction.

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Lebanon faces problems mobilising reconstruction funds

BEIRUT (AFP) — Prime Minister Rafic Hariri's government is facing a tough problem in securing foreign aid to implement an ambitious 10-year plan to get the country back on its feet.

The Horizon 2000 master-plan revealed in March to rebuild the Lebanese infrastructure, which was shattered in a 15-year civil war, has been estimated to cost some \$12 billion.

"The outside world will not help us unless we help ourselves. All depends on us if we work hard. Our credibility is a function of our work," the head of the Council of Development and Reconstruction, Fadi Shalaq, told AFP.

According to Mr. Shalaq, Lebanon already has \$1.5 billion in foreign credit and hopes to obtain an additional \$1 billion.

But according to Western diplomats, Lebanon has so far secured only around \$530 million in pledges from the World Bank, European Bank of Investments, Kuwait, France and Italy.

The diplomats believe that foreign aid will only be forthcoming if the Lebanese show faith in their country by returning part, if not all, of the estimated \$40 billion in private assets kept abroad.

Until then, they said, Lebanon will not be able to depend on small loans or grants to cover the implementation of one project at a time.

Mr. Hariri and senior ministers have canvassed the oil-rich Gulf monarchies and Arab capitals in recent months to

appeal for financial help and obtained promises, but the offers remain empty.

They mainly urged the Arabs to activate an Arab and international reconstruction fund that was approved at the 1990 Baghdad Arab summit with an initial capital of \$2 billion. Lebanon has not seen a penny of the sum.

"The Lebanese also know they will be facing competition from Gaza and Jericho," which are being earmarked for international aid as part of plans to set up self-rule there under the Sept. 13 PLO-Israel accord, a Western diplomat said.

This realisation is shared by many of Mr. Hariri's detractors and the excitement that accompanied the self-made millionaire's appointment as prime minister one year ago appears to have been overtaken by bitterness.

"He has no political vision," according to bank executive Tony Shueiri.

"He promised the moon but he did not deliver," added an economic expert declining to be identified.

Officials meanwhile estimate the budget deficit at \$1 billion while experts believe it is closer to \$1.5 billion.

Opponents of the prime minister accuse him of losing all sense of priorities, pointing to the government's effort to sell the idea of rebuilding the city centre before tackling more urgent problems such as telephones that don't work, rationed electricity and public health.

Hilton International receives Jericho offer

ABU DHABI (R) — The Hilton hotel chain says it has been asked by Palestinian investors to set up a hotel in Jericho where self-rule begins to take effect later this year.

"We have already been contacted by people who wish to put a hotel in Jericho," Ahmad Al Nahas, a vice president of Hilton International Co., said Sunday. "(But) we want to see how things develop. It's too premature."

Tourism in the occupied territories is to be transferred to Palestinian control under the Israeli-PLO peace accord signed last September.

Investment in Gaza Strip and Jericho, to have full autonomy by next April 13, is expected to be cautious initially as the transfer of authority takes place.

Mr. Nahas said the company, a hotel management unit of Ladbrooke Group PLC in the United Kingdom, was negotiating to expand its hotel capacity by 50 per cent in the Middle East and the Gulf.

"There is a lot of room for business. It's a virgin place," he said.

Mr. Nahas had earlier told a news conference in Abu Dhabi that the Middle East and the Gulf were the fastest growing market for Hilton International, which owns 30 of the 160 hotels under its management in 60 countries.

He said the company is negotiating to set up three hotels in Saudi Arabia, three in Egypt along with two cruise ships, and one hotel each in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Yemen for a total of 4,000 rooms.

He said they now have about 8,000 rooms in 17 hotels in the Middle East — seven in Egypt, six in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and one hotel each in Bahrain, Sudan, Tunisia, and Algeria. In the UAE it is investing \$27 million to expand two hotels.

Russia puts up prices on Lada cars

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's most popular car, the utilitarian Lada, will cost 50 per cent more from Monday because of soaring production prices, ITAR-TASS news agency said Sunday. It said the most popular model would cost 7.8 million roubles, which is the equivalent of about \$6,600 or \$150 average monthly pay packets.

However, Mr. Lage, interviewed in the Communist Party newspaper Granma, said the tax system would be "integral and uniform." This suggested a move toward taxes on individuals.

Mr. Lage said state fiscal and budget deficits were running at several billion pesos (several billion dollars) and there was an excess of pesos in circulation which would pass 10 billion by the year end.

To reduce the deficits, finance officials were "working on the creation of an integral and uniform tax system, and one the use of the state budget as an instrument of regulation and control of the country's economic activities," Mr. Lage added.

Authorities also wanted to develop audit, checking and

Businessmen see lucrative computer market in Mideast

DUBAI (R) — International computer companies are finding a lucrative market in the Middle East but software piracy especially in Gulf Arab states is harming sales and the quality of products, company officials say.

"There are very high expectations for the computer market in the Middle East... it is very far away from market saturation. Computer literacy is growing tremendously," said Ibrahim Lahoud, marketing and communication manager for the Arab Business Machines.

But piracy is "killing us and killing everybody else," added Mr. Lahoud, whose company is distributor for Apple Computer Inc. in the Middle East.

"Piracy is the biggest epidemic that we have in the region. You sell one software and then you find 50 copies in the market," he added.

Arab Gulf states including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have passed laws to stop the widespread use of illegally copied computer software, video and audio tapes.

Mr. Lahoud was speaking at the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX)

which opened in Dubai Saturday. Over 300 exhibitors representing 1,000 international and regional computer firms are promoting their products at the four-day exhibition.

The computer executives gave different growth rate figures for the business in the Middle East. Some said it was 20 to 30 per cent a year while others said it was 10 to 15 per cent.

All said there were no available statistics on the size of the market. Some estimated the software and hardware market in the Middle East was worth \$1 billion.

Charles Allen, Middle East manager of the U.S. computer software giant Microsoft Corp. said last week he expected the Middle East personal computer software market to expand up to 400 per cent in three years.

He expected to see the whole personal computers software market in the Middle East growing to about \$100 million in the three years and estimated the market's current value at around \$50 million a year.

Mustafa Rugibani, general manager of the Bahrain-based Gulf Business Machines which

distributes International Business Machines Corp. IBM products in the Middle East, said his estimated growth rate of 10 to 15 per cent was a high rate compared to the rest of the world.

"It is a great rate compared to the United States and Europe. There is no recession here and it is a very good market for computer products both software and hardware," he said.

"That is why there are many competitors," he added.

Many of the companies, including Microsoft and IBM, are showing the latest versions of their Arabic-language software at GITEX.

There is demand for Arabic software which is not fully utilised yet. Many major companies are investing in this because of the high demand for Arabic software," Mr. Rugibani said.

The executives said that they were encouraged by laws passed in some Gulf Arab states to protect copyright.

"With the new laws being issued, the problem of piracy is going to be limited... it is a major problem now but it is getting better," Mr. Rugibani said.

Cuba preparing new tax system

HAVANA (Agencies) — Cuba, engaged in reform at a time of serious economic crisis, is preparing measures to improve the health of state finances, including a new system of taxes, a senior government official said Saturday.

Carlos Lage, a member of the Communist Party Politburo and secretary of the council of ministers, did not give details of what form a new tax system might take or when it would be announced.

However, Mr. Lage, interviewed in the Communist Party newspaper Granma, said the tax system would be "integral and uniform." This suggested a move toward taxes on individuals.

He said they now have about 8,000 rooms in 17 hotels in the Middle East — seven in Egypt, six in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and one hotel each in Bahrain, Sudan, Tunisia, and Algeria. In the UAE it is investing \$27 million to expand two hotels.

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Shevardnadze goes to front to 'finish with' Gamsakhurdia

ABASHA, Georgia (AFP) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has arrived here to take personal command of his troops and visit the battlefield after they lost two key western towns to rebels.

Mr. Shevardnadze, planning to see the troops Sunday, said overnight that it was absolutely necessary to "finish once and for all" with former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Georgian forces abandoned the towns of Khobi and Senaki after a counter-offensive by Gamsakhurdia loyalists, reportedly helped by the arrival of reinforcements from the north Caucasus, who also helped Abkhazian separatists expel Georgian government troops.

"Our men are tired. After a year of Abkhazia, defeat and now this war against other Georgians... It is normal that they should be weary. But I believe at the same time that they understand that it is absolutely necessary for Georgia to finish with this once and for

all," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze has set up his headquarters in Abasha, the last town before the battlefield, which is now at the outskirts of Senaki.

He held lengthy talks Saturday with his military chiefs of staff and was due to visit the front Sunday to boost the morale of the Georgian government troops.

In an interview with AFP, Mr. Shevardnadze said the intervention of fighters from the north Caucasus "changes everything, and that is why I have come. They have sent several hundred soldiers from Abkhazia with weapons and heavy equipment, and it is against them that we are fighting now."

The Georgian chief added: "If Shevardnadze wins, we shall have no more access to the sea (the Black Sea). We must therefore help Gamsakhurdia, who is our ally," the document stated.

It was impossible here to authenticate the document, which dealt with a meeting of government leaders last Wednesday and Thursday in Grozny, capital of Chechnya, where Mr. Gamsakhurdia spent his exile.

Many are volunteers who could at any moment simply clear out and go home.

A general of the regular army confided: "We are positioned there outside Senaki on a plain without any protection, and they showered Grad missiles on us all day Saturday. If we do not move forward soon, I am afraid my soldiers will not hold out much longer."

The document spoke of sending between 700 and 900 men into western Georgia in the ensuing few days.

Mr. Shevardnadze said his troops had no outside help.

The Russian army was guarding the railway lines from the

Black Sea to eastern Georgia, but "are taking absolutely no part in the fighting," he said.

Russian sources said late Saturday that their troops stationed at the railway at the entrance to Senaki had come under Zviadist fire, but it was unclear if they were specifically targeted or had been caught up in the Grad missile barrage against government troops near.

Military officers were officially talking optimistically about taking Zugdidi in coming days, but there was also clear concern at staff headquarters about the extreme tiredness of the troops.

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Georgian government soldiers run for cover during fighting near the town of Senaki, in the western part of the country (AFP photo)

Director Frederico Fellini dies

ROME (R) — Film director Frederico Fellini, an icon of the international cinema whose 1960 classic *La Dolce Vita* defined an era in his native Italy, died Sunday after two weeks in a coma, his doctor said.

The 73-year-old Fellini died at Rome's Umberto I Hospital at "around noon" (1100 GMT), his personal physician Gianfranco Turchetti told Reuters by telephone.

Maurizio Bini, head of the intensive care unit at the hospital, said Fellini had died of cardiac arrest.

Fellini's condition had worsened earlier Sunday. His doctors said he had developed a high fever and kidney problems.

Resident of Greysteel said the pub was packed with Halloween revellers, including both Catholics and Protestants. At least two of the dead were Protestants.

The dead included an 82-year-old man, a 52-year-old woman and the 19-year-old taunted by the "trick or treat" offer.

Local priest Father Kevin McKenna told reporters the scene in the pub after the attack was one of "total carnage". A dazed man stood over his dead wife. Injured people lay strewn around the bar crying for help, he said.

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Argentina, Australia play to 1-1 draw

SYDNEY, Australia (Agencies) — Diego Maradona conjured up one piece of magical artistry Sunday night as Argentina played to a 1-1 draw with Australia in a first-leg World Cup soccer qualifying match at the Sydney Football Stadium.

Maradona marked his comeback to international soccer by creating the opening goal for striker Abel Balbo in the 37th minute.

Midfielder Aurelio Vidmar equalised for Australia in the 42nd minute of a hard-fought contest.

"When we scored I thought the game was ours, but their goal so soon to equalise really took us by surprise," said Argentine coach Alfonso Basile.

The second leg match is scheduled on Nov. 17 in Buenos Aires, with the winner on aggregate advancing to the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Maradona, 33, was playing for the national team for the first time since February.

The controversial playmaker, who was suspended for 15 months after failing a drug test in 1991, was sacked by Spanish club Sevilla in June and had played only two matches since.

Australian captain Paul Wade marked Maradona effectively and he was able to shine only on rare occasions. For much of the match, Maradona played at a walking pace.

But when he did strike, he was awesome.

Maradona created his team's goal after robbing Australian sweeper Milan Ivanovic of possession.

He whipped a pinpoint left-footed cross from the right wing and Roma spearhead Balbo soared high to head the ball past the despairing dive of Australian goalkeeper Mark Bostwick.

It was Argentina's first strike on goal in the match.

Argentina coach Alfonso Basile said: "We have no fear of Australia, but we had respect for Australia before the game and after we have even more respect."

"I thought we played well tonight, but I think in Argentina we will play better."

Australian coach Eddie Thomson said: "We showed in the first half that we could match the Argentines. We created a lot of chances but we were unfortunate not to finish them off."

Thomson also had special praise for defender Paul Wade for his marking of Maradona.

"Wade did a good job marking Maradona. He kept him quiet most of the match except for that moment when Maradona set up their goal," said Thomson.

Wade, who equalled the Australian record of 64 appearances Sunday, sounded a defiant warning for the second leg.

"We showed tonight that we can play with the best. I'm not going to be so bold and say we are going to do a Colombia, but watch out."

The Argentine team was completely revamped from the one that lost 3-0 to Colombia last month — a defeat that resulted in Argentina having to face the unheralded Australians.

Fernando Redondo was mobile and powerful in midfield, while strikers Balbo and Gabriel Batistuta worked hard despite a lack of support from their playmakers.

The Argentine players were delighted and relieved with the result, embracing each other at the final whistle. Maradona, however, received a yellow card caution for dissent from Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl in the 89th minute.

Basile said he was satisfied with Maradona's limited contribution.

"I thought he played well after such a long break," Basile said. "He was clever to create the goal."

The match was delayed for seven minutes at halftime when the floodlights failed. Stadium officials said the problem had been caused by a power surge.

Australia is bidding to advance to the finals for the first time since 1974, while Argentina won in 1986 and was runner-up in 1990.

The match was watched by a stadium record crowd of 43,967.

Chinese athletics revolution rolls on

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AFP) — China's outstanding group of women athletes gave another demonstration of their domination of world distance running with a clean sweep of the medals at the World Marathon Cup here Sunday.

But the anticipated assault on Ingrid Kristiansen's eight year old world record at the distance was doomed within the first 10km as Wang Yunxia, the world 10,000 champion and record holder, followed the slow early pace set by American Ann Boyd.

Wang finally broke away from the leading group of 10 athletes at the 30km mark when the leading men — who had started 15 minutes later — caught the group and disturbed its rhythm.

She went on to win in 2:28.16, an impressive time but nearly three minutes slower than her marathon debut in April.

Her teammates Zhang Linli, Zhang Lirong and Ma Liyan followed her home in that order but world 1,500m record

holder Qu Yunxia, the fifth member of coach Ma Junren's squad on display here, limped out of the race after only 7km after straining a leg injury she was carrying.

Wang said afterwards she had felt the impact of the World Championships in Stuttgart, and her record-breaking exploits at the Chinese National Championships in September.

"Most of us broke existing world records at the national games and we were all very tired. We knew that so we just took it easy at the beginning and followed what the other athletes did."

She also admitted that she had been hurt by the widespread suspicion of doping that greeted her 3,000m and 10,000m records. "After all the hard work we have done, why should some people take this attitude," she said.

"If other people break our records we will be pleased for them. So why are we the Chinese accused?"

By bringing his prodigies to

this event Ma will have gone a long way to boosting the credibility of his methods and breaking down cynicism in the West.

Sceptics claim the intensity of his training — his athletes, all women, run the equivalent of a marathon a day at altitude — can only be borne with the aid of drugs.

"They have set up an incredible training base and set new standards in training and therefore performance," the 29-year-old former teacher

"Those standards have revolutionised women's distance running and what we saw today was a reflection of that."

Nearukar broke away from the leading pack four kilometres from the finish to win in a time of 2hr 10min 3sec, shaving nearly a minute from the time he registered in winning his debut Marathon in Hamburg in April.

As befits a multi-lingual graduate of Oxford and Harvard Universities, it was an astutely-judged run.

Nobody in the group of nine to 12 that had led the race most of the way was able to live with him as he opened up a 50m gap in a two-minute burst just as the route turned slightly uphill towards the finish.

Serino Bernadini of Italy tried in vain to close the gap but had to be content with second, nine seconds back.

Austrian storms to World Cup giant slalom win

SOELDEN, Austria (R) — Austrian Anita Wachter made a perfect start to the defence of her overall World Cup title when she stormed to a convincing victory in Sunday's opening women's giant slalom race.

The lightweight Wachter, fondly nicknamed "the flea from Montafon," left her rivals in her wake to win by 2.63 seconds on the 3,000-metre-high Rennbach Glacier Piste, with Frenchwomen taking second and third places.

She skied the course, which had a vertical drop of 350

metres, in an overall time of two minutes 14.57 seconds.

Sophie Lefranc, in only her second World Cup season, outskied her more experienced compatriot, giant slalom world champion Carole Merle, to finish second in 2:17.20 over the two legs. Merle clocked 2:17.51.

The performance by Lefranc, 22, was all the more spectacular after she finished fourth in the first leg despite starting way back in the field at 30th.

Merle, the giant slalom World Cup champion, was faster than Lefranc in the middle of the second leg but, like many racers before her, lost time on the lower half as sun slowed down the powder-snow piste.

Wachter, second to Merle in last season's giant slalom standings, set an almost unbeatable lead of nearly 1.5 seconds over Merle in the first leg and held a perfect line down the technically demanding course to increase her overall lead.

Austria's Sylvia Eder was unable to hold onto her third position after the first leg when she clocked a disappointing overall time of 2:18.73.

Swiss veteran Vreni Schneider, who holds a record 20 World Cup giant slalom wins, finished fourth after a powerful second run but paid for a slow first leg.

Germany's overall World Cup runner-up Katja Seizinger clocked 2:17.98 to move up from 15th place in the first leg to sixth overall.

Austria's Sylvia Eder was unable to hold onto her third position after the first leg when she clocked a disappointing overall time of 2:18.73.

games, one ahead of the champions.

Milan had not been dislodged from top spot since hitting the front on Oct. 20, 1991. It was also their first away defeat in the league for almost 2½ years.

Gullit crashed home a cross-shot 12 minutes from time to cap a memorable fightback by Sampdoria, who scored three times in the second half to overturn a 2-0 deficit.

Cup Winners' Cup holders Parma are level on points with Milan and will go clear at the top if they win their tough fixture away to Internazionale.

Carbajal pummels Sosa, retains boxing titles

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — American Michael Carbajal pummelled Dominican Domingo Sosa for more than four rounds to retain his World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation light flyweight titles Saturday.

They stretched it to eight points in the third period and turned on the heat in the closing minutes of the final quarter.

The undefeated Carbajal, silver medalist at the 1988 Olympics, scored his 30th victory while Sosa's record fell to 28-2.

Carbajal was surprised Sosa lasted as long as he did.

"It just seemed like he fought on instinct. I was surprised he stayed up so long. He took some good punches and wouldn't go down," the champion said.

Carbajal knocked down Sosa at 1:23 in the first round with a left to the body and right to the head. It was the first time Sosa had been knocked down.

Carbajal dominated the fight despite suffering a cut above his right eye in the second round due to an accidental head butt. Carbajal, sporting a new mohawk haircut, was bleeding after the head butt.

"I wasn't worried because the cut was on top of my head," Carbajal said. "I was bleeding a lot and once in a while it would get into my eye and everything was blurry, but I would just back up and shake it out."

Carbajal said that after the cut, "I still took my time and tried to stay on top of him."

With 10 seconds remaining in the fourth round, Carbajal connected with a right to the head, stunning Sosa. However, time ran out in the round and Sosa survived — briefly.

Some felt the referee should have stopped the fight sooner but Carbajal's brother and trainer Danny said: "Bobby (Ferrara) is a good ref. He gave him every chance to fight because it was for the championship, but his corner knows him better than the ref."

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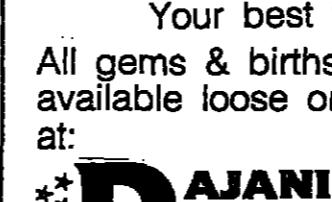
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan-Gulf Bank gets new chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly elected board of directors for Jordan-Gulf Bank had appointed Mohammad Jamjoum as the bank's general manager. Mr. Jamjoum, a banking veteran, was the general manager of Jordan Kuwait Bank for the last three years. He acquired his banking skills through his (28) years experience in New York, London, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain banks.

Prince Charles to push for arms sales

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Prince Charles will visit an international air show in the Gulf next week to support Britain's arms sales in the region, organisers said Sunday. The heir to the British throne will meet senior government officials in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) when he visits Abu Dhabi before going to the show in neighbouring Dubai, the London-based Fairs and Exhibition said. Britain, one of the top three arms suppliers to the Middle East, is sending 68 companies to the Nov. 7-11 show, which will include nearly 80 types of aircraft and air defence systems. Besides Britain, France, the United States, Russia, China, Ukraine and around 30 other countries will be represented by 450 companies at the show, which will also feature demonstrations.

Israel may no longer define PLO as 'terrorist'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday that in wake of Israel's peace accord with the Palestinians, the government was weighing whether to stop calling the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) a "terrorist organisation." Mr. Peres was asked by Israel Radio if the cabinet would discuss changing its definition of the PLO during its weekly meeting. "I know they are working on it, that they are working on the legal aspect of what could be achieved, what legal conclusions can be drawn from the change in the political situation," Mr. Peres said. In January parliament repealed a 1986 amendment that called for prosecuting and imprisoning Israelis that met with members of "terrorist" organisations, mostly directed at the PLO. However, the amendment's repeal did not change the definition of the PLO as a "terrorist" organisation.

Israel to buy F-15A warplanes — report

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel plans to buy at least 20 F-15A warplanes, which have so far only been in service in the U.S. Air Force, Haaretz newspaper said Sunday. Defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben Ami declined to confirm or deny the report that Israel wanted between 20 and 24 of the planes. The U.S. government is expected to state the exact cost of the planes by Tuesday, said Haaretz. Its defence correspondent said Saudi Arabia, which has bought 72 F-15As, would receive a less sophisticated version. The F-15A has a long range, and from Israel it could reach Iraq or Iran. The plane costs around \$2 million.

Archaeologists: Oldest fortress wall found

TEL AVIV (AP) — The world's oldest known fortress wall was uncovered recently in central Israel, an antiquities authority statement said Sunday. The wall, found near the central coastal town of Hadera, dates from the fourth millennium B.C., the statement quoted archaeologist Eli Yanai as saying. The 1.1-metre wall protected villages along a strategic road. The finds, uncovered during excavations to widen the highway connecting Hadera with Afula in the northeast, including a 25-metre stretch of wall and a watchtower. The wall originally surrounded an 800-dunam site. Also uncovered at the site were the skeletons of a young couple and the house of a well-to-do family in which a rare copper axe was found.

3 robbers hanged in public in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Three people convicted of murder and armed robbery have been hanged in public in northwestern Iran, Kayhan newspaper reported here Sunday. The three were sentenced to death by a revolutionary court in Orumieh after they were found guilty of killing an Iraqi citizen, armed robbery and terrorising the public, the newspaper said. It did not say when the sentence was carried out. The men had appealed to the supreme court against the decision. They belonged to two gangs which were broken up recently. Nine other members of the gangs have been given long prison terms or have been exiled, according to the newspaper. Four convicted robbers were executed in April in Sirjan, southwest Iran. Armed robbery is a crime punishable by death in Iran.

Dubai's television to spread through West

DUBAI (AP) — Emirates Dubai Television (EDTV) will inaugurate a 24-hour satellite service Dec. 6 to become the first Arabic-language station to reach both the European and American continents, officials said Sunday. Riyad Al Shuaib, information adviser to the government of Dubai, one of the seven sheikhdoms confederated in the United Arab Emirates, described the plan as "a landmark development in the history of Arab broadcasting." EDTV will use Eutelsat II for its link to Europe, and Galaxy VII to reach Canada, the United States and Central America as far south as Venezuela. He said 14 million Arabs on both sides of the Atlantic will be able to pick up EDTV. "Our service will provide a single bridge between Arab expatriates and their native countries," he said.

'2 colonels led Libya coup bid'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Two army colonels close to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi mounted a coup bid from Oct. 11-14 but it was put down, an Arab newspaper reported Sunday.

The London-based Al Hayat said Colonel Hassan Al Kebir and Col. Rifi Ali Al Sherif staged the revolt counting on "unrest in the army" because "agents had not been paid for several months."

Quoting unidentified Libyan sources, it said almost 200 people were killed as the revolt was put down using the air force. Col. Kebir was arrested but Col. Sherif escaped to Geneva.

The revolt was launching in the Bani Walid region, 170 kilometres south of Tripoli, Al Hayat said, and spread to several garrisons but without reaching the capital.

Colonel Gadhafi has denied any military rebellion took place and accused British intelligence of spreading rumours aimed at demoralising the Libyan people.

In Cairo, the opposition National Front for the Salvation of Libya claimed responsibility for the revolt and said the army "went into action" last week against hundreds of rebels still dug in near Bani Walid.

The attempt was curbed after fierce and bloody confrontations which lasted three days and which led to the killing of between 500 and 2,000 people," Al Hayat said, quoting sources close to the Libyan government.

It said the revolt began in military barracks in Bani Walid and the southern town of Birak, and later spread to Gharyan, south of Tripoli, and Tarhunah to the east.

The newspaper quoted sources as saying the Libyan air force "played a decisive role in crushing the revolt."

They said non-Libyan Arab pilots flew Libya's Russian-made MiG warplanes and bombed barracks where dissidents had gathered.

Security forces led by Col. Khalifa Huneish and revolutionary guard units headed by Col. Mohammad Al Majzoub launched the ground assault using tanks, armoured personnel carriers, rocket launchers and other weapons.

Most of those arrested were officers and Muslim fundamentalists, the sources added.

Libya's security apparatus was on maximum alert and most of the trouble spots were sealed off, the sources said.

"The surprise was the involvement of officers from the tribe of Warfa in Bani Walid in the coup d'état attempt, the tribe considered closest to Qaddafi," the report said.

Al Hayat said Libya's exiled opposition was not involved.

"There has been no confirmation that the dissidents had links with a foreign country," the sources said.

Western and Arab diplomats based in Tripoli said they believe Libyan security forces crushed some kind of armed resistance in October near the central city of Misratah. They said there had since been arrests and house searches in Tripoli.

U.N. fails to find 'hidden Scuds'

BAHRAIN (AP) — A U.N. weapons inspection team did not find any hidden Scud missiles or any other prohibited arms during a month-long sweep of Iraq, the team leader said Sunday.

U.S. and other Western intelligence reports have contended Iraq has hidden more than 200 Scud type missiles from U.N. inspectors.

However, team leader Nikita Smidovich, a Russian expert with the U.N. special commission, told reporters Sunday his team of 50 to 100 inspectors found no evidence of hidden missiles during a search he called thorough.

"We found no prohibited items," said Mr. Smidovich, who returned from Iraq in Saturday.

He said the team used helicopter-mounted "ground penetrating radar" to search for possible storage sites for prohibited weapons, primarily missiles.

The airborne sweeps were

coupled by searches of Iraqi facilities by teams of weapons inspectors who would arrive at a particular site on short notice to limit the Iraqi ability to hide prohibited items, said Mr. Smidovich.

For the mission, Mr. Smidovich and his team had pooled all the secret information provided to the commission since it began its task by mandate of the Security Council's Gulf war ceasefire resolution early 1991.

"The information available was dealing primarily with missiles," said Mr. Smidovich.

Their search for still hidden chemical and biological weapons supplies also turned out to be negative, he said.

The commission has des-

stroyed three so-called super-

gums, scores of Scuds and their variants and all the nuclear,

chemical and biological

weapons facilities and stock

that had been declared by Iraq or found by the United Nations during 62 previous inspections.

"Of more than 800 long-range

Scuds provided by the former

Soviet Union, Iraq had fired 43 at Saudi Arabia, 39 at Israel,

one at Qatar and two at Bahrain during the Gulf war.

The Scuds had also been

widely used by the Iraqis during

the so-called "war of the cities" during the latter part of the 1980-88 hostilities with Iran.

However, the U.N. special

commission said by its count

some missiles are still un-

accounted for. It based its

assessment on the number of missiles destroyed over the past three years and on the number Iraq is thought to have acquired from Moscow.

Iraq claims all the missiles have been destroyed. It said the missiles still considered missing by the U.N. were fired in the early years of the war with Iraq or used in test firings.

The inspection teams' failure to find any hidden weapons, could bolster the position of Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz when he goes to New York next month to push for the lifting of the oil embargo clamped on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

However, even if the Security

Council concludes that there are no more weapons

hidden in Iraq, Baghdad still

must accept a Security Council

resolution that puts in place a

long-term monitoring plan to

ensure it does not revive its

programme for weapons of

mass destruction.

Mr. Smidovich told reporters that Iraq did not interfere with the latest inspections.

"Iraq provided all of the support needed for the inspection activities," said Mr. Smidovich. "We had no problems with gaining access."

44 'Vanguards' sentenced in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Egyptian military court jailed 44 Islamic militants Sunday for plotting against the government a day after it condemned to death eight other members of their group.

In Cairo, the opposition National Front for the Salvation of Libya claimed responsibility for the revolt and said the army "went into action" last week against hundreds of rebels still dug in near Bani Walid.

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"People are interested in getting their sons appointed in government and public offices or enrolling their sons and daughters in Jordan's universities and colleges," said one activist.

But such "services" could only be delivered by personalities who have served in many government and even security posts, the activist argued.

"There is little interest in political affairs here. People are more concerned with their daily lives and direct economic needs," said Abdul Hadi Al Majali, the official candidate of the influential Majali tribe, as people continued pouring into his tent in Yarout outside the city of Karak.

Mr. Majali seems to be the perfect example of a deputy for his influence and contacts in government.

He has served in many important posts, including chief of staff and police chief as well as ambassador to Washington. The candidate does not waste time discussing political issues, whether it is the Middle East peace process or domestic policies, with his constituency.

The constituency he appeals to, Mr. Majali explains, fully supports His Majesty King Hussein and all of his policies.

"Jordanian policies are determined by His Majesty, and the tribe is aware of that and supports him," said Sheikh

Colonel Hafez Amin, had to adjourn Sunday's session until Tuesday due to the absence of the lawyers for eight of the defendants in court. Two are being tried in absentia.

Despite the court's notification of the lawyers about the date of a court session to review medical reports, the

lawyers were not present in court, said a court statement.

The court was to have discussed with the lawyers reports submitted by the doctors and psychiatrists about the condition of the defendants in jail upon the request of the defence lawyers themselves, the statement said.

Karak turns tribal in run-up to elections

Sultan Al Majali, the chief of the Majalis who added that the tribe did not believe in party activities.

The statement by the sheikh reflects, to varying extent, a conclusion by many in Karak that the Parliament is not capable of changing policies or doing much about them.

Political activists admit there has been a setback in political mobilisation over the last four years. Traditionalists and conservatives, who mainly rely on their influence in the government, have taken advantage of this setback by offering to deliver services that opposition party members could not afford.

"People are interested in getting their sons appointed in government and public offices or enrolling their sons and daughters in Jordan's universities and colleges," said one activist.

He added emphatically that the clan does not recognise the other three candidates from the same tribe and that it disavows those who belong to the Muslim Brotherhood. For Sheikh Sultan there is no allegiance or affiliation that supercedes that to the tribe. In practice, however, the tribal elders are forging an alliance with more modern and conservative city politicians.

But if conservative politicians who usually live in Amman find it natural and convenient to fall back on tribal affiliations and structures to assert their influence especially after the system has extended to include more liberal and leftist trends in the decision-making process, the problem is different for the layman who might support conservative candidates.

Candidates and former deputies say that people come to them to ask them to use their connections to find them government jobs.

The people's expectations of such "services" underscore the continuing unemployment problem and poor living standards.

Karak had been the first to join the protests that erupted

Sudan gets new cabinet with little changes

CAIRO (Agencies) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir late Saturday announced the composition of a new government, with few changes from the outgoing team.

General Bashir confirmed the October 20 nominations of Al Zubair Mahmoud Salih and Hassan Abdul Rahman as vice-president and defence minister respectively. Gen. Bashir had previously held the defence portfolio himself.

The new administration, which was announced after a 10-day wait, has dropped Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi and Culture and Information Minister Mohammad Suleiman.

Abdullah Hassan Ahmad, outgoing general manager of the Faisal Islamic Bank and chairman of the bank's union, was given the finance portfolio, the only new member of the government.

Mr. Ahmad had been closely associated with tough economic reforms welcomed by the International Monetary Fund but unpopular among the masses.

Mr. Ahmad, who replaced Mr. Hamdi, is known as a proponent of market-oriented economics and his appointment means reforms initiated by Mr. Hamdi are likely to continue.

Hussein Suliman Abu Saleh was retained as foreign minister, while Brigadier Suleiman was replaced at the Culture Ministry by former Education Minister Abdul Basset Sabdarat, whose own portfolio was taken up by Ibrahim Ahmad Omar.